October 17

Acts 26:15-18

Persecution with Purpose

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make

thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto

whom now I
send thee,
18 To open their
eyes, and to turn
them from
darkness to light,
and from the
power of Satan
unto God, that
they may receive
forgiveness of

sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Persecution with Purpose

Jesus was no longer on earth in human form, yet Paul had been persecuting Jesus.

How so?

How can one do *anything* to someone who isn't even alive?

Paul was doing that by severely persecuting Jesus' followers.

Jesus appeared to Paul telling him that he would be persecuted with a purpose. That purpose was for

him to be a minister and witness of present and future things.

Paul's mission would be to open the eyes of Gentiles and to turn them from ignorance to truth; from the

power of Satan to the power of God. The purpose of doing that was so they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among those who are **sanctified by faith in Jesus**.

Jesus was sending Paul to some of the very people who would persecute him. Jesus would have to deliver Paul from the people Paul was trying to help.

It was persecution with a distinct purpose.

Is it possible that certain Believers, or maybe all Believers, are also persecuted with a purpose?

Does God place his people in similar situations where we are trying to help the very people who are trying to hurt and even destroy us because of our faith in Jesus?

ONE A DAY
SCRIPTURE
1611KJV
PRAYER